City were given in Newspapers on 25-12-93 inviting applications upto 10-01-94.

(b) and (c) No Sir, However there was some delay in allotment of STD Local PCOs due to stay orders of Nagpur High Court. The stay orders has since been vacated on 26-09-94.

(d) STD/PCOs are allotted only to the unemployed who have studied upto 10th (in case of STD/ISD PCOs in urban areas) and 8th (in case of STD/ISD PCOs in rural areas). The allotment is done by STD/ISD PCO allotment Committee constituted for each Secondary Switching Area. The following categories of applicants are given preference:

(a) Handicapped including blind

(b) SC/ST applicants

(c) Ex-servicemen/war widows

(d) Rtd. DoT employees or their dependants

(e) Dependants of freedom fighters

(f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(e) The allotment is likely to be completed by end of January '95.

Complaints against postal employees

885. SHRI V. GOPAL SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many postal employees were suspended/dismissed or arrested for theft of shares of UTI units etc. during the last three years alongwith yearwise figures;

(b) how many cases are pending with department as on date;

(c) the number of complaints received against its employees for financial irregularities/including theft of UTI units etc. during the last three years;

(d) what steps are being taken to contain such complaints and also to improve postal functioning;

(e) whether Government will constitute cells in postal department in major metropolitan cities to detect such crimes in time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

पर्वतीय राज्यों में डाक-घरों का खोला जाना

886. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह : क्या संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के पर्वतीय राज्यों में किन-किन स्थानों के लोगों और लोक प्रतिनिधियों से इस वर्ष नए डाकघर खोले जाने के लिए अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) किन-किन स्थानों पर डाकघर खोले जाने की मांग स्वीकार कर ली है; और

(ग) किन-किन स्थानों पर डाकघर खोले जाने की मांग स्वीकार नहीं की गई है और इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) से (ग) : जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

हिमाचल प्रदेश में पी.सी.ओ. सुविधा

887. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह : क्या संचार** मंत्री 3 मई 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 5379 के दिये गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा हिमाचल प्रदेश की उन 1121 पंचायतों में पी. सी.